

State installs wind metering tower in Huerfano County

Findings could result in wind farm

The Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation and the San Isabel Electric Association, Inc. announce the raising of a 50 meter wind anemometer tower in Huerfano County, as part of OEMC's continuing efforts to examine the feasibility of wind energy. The installation of a 50-meter tower provides accurate wind data for securing financing for large wind development projects. The site was selected because of data that was collected previously on a 30-meter SIEA tower. The data, analyzed by OEMC, demonstrated exemplary wind resources.

OEMC will loan the 50-meter anemometer tower to SIEA and provide an analysis of the collected wind data,

turbine hub would be if the site is deemed suitable for a future wind farm. The tower will remain on site for a minimum of six months and up to one year. Data collected will be compared to data collected from the SIEA tower that was previously on the site.

The potential for the site in Huerfano County became apparent after the landowner took part in an anemometer loan program offered by SIEA. The data collected since November 2004 shows the area to have an excellent wind source. It averages 17.3 mph, represents a class-5 wind resource, and is considered excellent according to industry wind classification ratings.

"Wind energy is recognized as a clean, renewable energy source, especially in Colorado's eastern plains, where the nation's fifth largest wind farm is located. We hope that the data collected from this 50 meter tower shows that this region may be another wind energy resource," said OEMC Director Drew Bolin.

SIEA erected the tower Aug. 18 on property owned by Ed Johnson, an SIEA member.

More information on the OEMC Anemometer Loan Program can be found by visiting www.state.co.us/oemc. For more information on SIEA renewable energy programs, call 719-547-2160 or toll free at 800-279-7432.



SIEA's Lee Scofield controls the installation while Vern Blanton looks on. Photo courtesy of San Isabel Electric Association and the Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation.

free of charge, as it does for other anemometers used by its loan program partners. The tower is the first of its kind to be used in the region. It has anemometers at 30, 40 and 50 meters and will gather data measurements where a wind